

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 112
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols
Coach Pat Head Summitt on the memorable
occasion of her 800th career victory.

WHEREAS, throughout the storied history of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics, no coach
has epitomized winning more than University of Tennessee Head Coach Pat Summitt; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's dominance of women's basketball is best illustrated by her
76-57 victory over Depaul University on January 14, 2003, when she became the first women's
college basketball coach to win 800 games; and

WHEREAS, Pat Summitt's success began more than 30 years ago when she took over
the helm at Tennessee in 1974 and promptly won her first game, a 69-32 victory over Middle
Tennessee State in UT's Alumni Gym in front of 53 spectators; and

WHEREAS, Pat has coached Tennessee to six NCAA national championships during
her remarkable career, including the NCAA's first back-to-back-to-back women's titles in 1996,
1997 and 1998, and stands alone among her peers as the most respected women's basketball
coach in America; and

WHEREAS, she is just the fourth men's or women's coach in Division I with 800 victories behind Dean Smith, Adolph Rupp and Jim Phelan, and trails only UCLA's legendary coach John Wooden for the most NCAA titles; she has won six national titles during her illustrious tenure at UT; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's 1997-98 team is arguably the best collegiate women's basketball squad ever assembled; the Lady Vols dominated their opponents by an average of more than 30 points per contest en route to a 39-0 record, giving Tennessee the most wins and best record in NCAA men's or women's basketball history; and

WHEREAS, the program's success under Pat Summitt has attracted thousands of fans, with home games averaging an incredible 12,000 diehard fans this season; Tennessee has led the nation in home attendance for six consecutive years, and leads all Division I schools in home attendance again this year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's stellar coaching abilities may be best illustrated by the fact that on November 23, 2001, she notched her 300th all-time win against a ranked opponent when the Lady Vols defeated Louisiana Tech; and

WHEREAS, Pat is a goodwill ambassador for her beloved University of Tennessee, taking her teams to play basketball in more than 40 states and two foreign countries; to her players, she is a mentor and friend who motivates them to believe in themselves and the Lady Vols system every time they take the court; and

WHEREAS, as a player, she won an Olympic silver medal in 1976, and as an international coach, she brought home the first USA women's hoops gold medal in Olympic competition in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Pat Summitt was the first woman to receive the prestigious John Bunn Award in 1990, given by the Basketball Hall of Fame, and was also inducted that year into the Women's Sports Foundation Hall of Fame in New York City; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, 1997 and 1998, Coach Summitt was named the Coach of the Year by the Touchdown Club of Columbus, Ohio, and also received the Women's Basketball Coach of the Year at the 28th and 32nd Victor Awards, benefiting the City of Hope; and

WHEREAS, Pat was inducted into the National Association for Sport and Physical Education's Hall of Fame in 1996, and in 1997, she received the Casey Award, presented annually by the Kansas City Sports Commission, and the Governor Ned McWherter Award of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, her numerous honors and accolades aside, Pat Summitt is most appreciative of the love and support she shares with her husband, R.B. Summitt; their son, Tyler; her parents, Richard and Hazel Head; and her sister and two brothers, including our own esteemed colleague Representative Tommy Head; and

WHEREAS, as is typical of Coach Summitt, she selflessly deflects praise by saying her success "just speaks to the University of Tennessee's commitment" and that she will "always be indebted to Tennessee for giving (me) a chance"; and

WHEREAS, this assembled group of state legislators is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this esteemed Tennessean for her extraordinary accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt on becoming the first coach in women's college basketball history to win 800 career games, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Coach Summitt with this final clause omitted from such copy.